

Message

From: Enck, Judith [Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/10/2016 4:26:04 PM
To: Plevin, Lisa [Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov]
CC: McCabe, Catherine [McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Hoosick response

Re congressman Gibson please add that I initiated a phone call with him last month and gave him and his staff a detailed briefing. Berry has been keeping his staff and senator gillibrand a staff fully informed since last November. Berry would know about prior to that. I think Mary should send my remarks and slides to Brendan Lyons from the community meeting in hoosick on January 14. These are public and touch on some of the issues he is asking about. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2016, at 10:13 AM, Plevin, Lisa <Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov> wrote:

As FYI. This required a response yesterday, which Mary and Liz worked on.

Lisa J. Plevin
Chief of Staff, USEPA Reg. 2
290 Broadway
NY, NY 10007
212-637-5000

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:06 PM
To: Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>; McCabe, Catherine <McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov>; Plevin, Lisa <Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: Shore, Berry <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>; Martin, John <Martin.JohnJ@epa.gov>; Bowser, Andre <Bowser.Andre@epa.gov>; McGowan, Michael <McGowan.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: Hoosick response

FYI. I responded to the reporter.

Mary Mears
Deputy Director Public Affairs and Chief Public Outreach Branch
U.S. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, the US VI and eight Indian Nations)
(212) 637-3673 (Direct Office)
(212) 637-3660 (General Office)
(646) 369-0077 (Cell)

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:04 PM
To: 'Lyons, Brendan' <BLyons@TimesUnion.com>
Subject: Your inquiry

Hi Brendan,
Senator Gillibrand's office did contact us in March 2015.

As I think you are aware, in December 2014, the company forwarded village test results which showed one of three wells over 400ppt and that test well was taken off line, and did not report water being used above the EPA 400ppt number at the time. Additionally, R2 was contacted in December 2014 by a resident about the results. The EPA's drinking water experts reached out to New York State regulators and in the course of a few days were able to ascertain that the state and county health agencies were working with the village and that the one well with levels of PFOA above the EPA advisory level of 400 parts per trillion was reportedly taken off line.

PFOA is an emerging contaminant and there is new science. The agency is looking at where and how people get exposed to PFOA, and the possible health impacts of PFOA. These contaminants aren't regulated, because until recently, we didn't know the extent to which they ended up in our water, the extent to which they stayed in our drinking water, or what health impacts might result.

EPA is currently using the best science to develop a lifetime health advisory level for PFOA, which the agency expects to release in spring 2016. Lifetime health advisories serve as guidance and are benchmarks for determining if concentrations of chemicals in tap water from public utilities are safe for public consumption. They provide state, local and tribal governments with non-regulatory guidance to make decisions on a local basis in cases where a chemical is not federally regulated. When issued, the lifetime health advisory for PFOA will supersede the provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion for PFOA issued in 2009.

In terms of funding, EPA provides Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Funds to New York State to address drinking water needs. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund Program is implemented by the New York State.

OFF THE RECORD: I am not immediately aware of us being contacted by Gibson's office in March 2015, and will have to look further into that.

Mary Mears

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From: Lyons, Brendan [<mailto:BLyons@TimesUnion.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:01 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Urgent

OK thanks

On Feb 9, 2016, at 6:50 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Will get back to you shortly.

Mary Mears

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From: Lyons, Brendan [<mailto:BLyons@TimesUnion.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:19 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent

Yes, but I can add your comments up until about 8 pm, ok? I'm very sorry for the late hit.

From: "Mears, Mary" <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 5:17 PM
To: Brendan Lyons <blyons@timesunion.com>
Subject: RE: Urgent

Hey Brendan,
I am going to have to look into this, are you writing tonight?

Mary Mears
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From: Lyons, Brendan [<mailto:BLyons@TimesUnion.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:39 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Urgent

Mary,

We just received responses from Gillibrand and Gibson stating that they contacted EPA Region 2 last March about Hoosick Falls but were told nothing could be done because PFOA is not a regulated contaminant.

Here is an excerpt of the response from Gillibrand's office, and I'm hoping you can provide some response imminently.

The Mayor of Hoosick Falls first reached out to our office in March of 2015 and asked for help funding a new water filtration system and also expressed concerns about PFOA. We immediately brought the Mayor's concerns about PFOA to the EPA's attention and also requested EPA's help funding the water filtration system.

At the time the EPA told our office that there were no standards in place for it to regulate PFOA and so there was no specific enforcement action they could take. The EPA also said that the Mayor should apply to the State for funding for the water filtration system because that federal funding is administered by the state.

From: "Mears, Mary" <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:04 PM
To: Brendan Lyons <blyons@timesunion.com>
Subject: RE: <no subject>

Yes, I will get back to you as soon as I can, but certainly by Thursday morning.

Mary Mears
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From: Lyons, Brendan [<mailto:BLyons@TimesUnion.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: <no subject>

Not today. Is by tomorrow afternoon or Thursday morning feasible?

From: "Mears, Mary" <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 1:57 PM
To: Brendan Lyons <blyons@timesunion.com>, "Martin, John" <Martin.JohnJ@epa.gov>
Cc: "Enck, Judith" <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: <no subject>

Hi Brendan,
Yes, Judith is off the grid at the moment. I will look into this. What is your deadline?

Mary Mears
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From: Lyons, Brendan [<mailto:BLyons@TimesUnion.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:50 AM
To: Martin, John <Martin.JohnJ@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Cc: Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
Subject: <no subject>

Good morning,

Mary, I left a phone message as well but thought I'd shoot off a quick email to get the ball rolling. I realize that Judith Enck is "off the grid" currently with limited access to email. I am working on a follow-up story regarding Hoosick Falls (PFOA pollution) that focuses on the state Department of Health's Center for Environmental Health. As you may recall, this unit issued a "fact sheet" that was distributed last year by the village to its residents. My question is whether, in your opinion, the DOH should have relied on or could have at least cited the **February 2014** draft results of an EPA preliminary report on the health effects of PFOA that were posted online by EPA. The study documented, with references, the health of occupational and residential populations at or near large-scale PFOA production plants in the United States. It

concluded that epidemiological studies had found a positive association between serum PFOA concentration and chronic kidney disease ...early menopause...decreased antibody titers in children after vaccination...delayed puberty in girls...obesity effects in female children at age 20...and parent reported attention deficit disorder (ADHD). Furthermore, [in Section 5.2] the study documented that there is evidence that PFOA exposure may be associated with an increased risk for cancer of the bladder, kidney, and urinary tract. Also, when Saint-Gobain wrote its letter to the EPA in December 2014 alerting the agency to the water-contamination issues, do you know why that information was not forwarded immediately to the EPA's regional office and followed up on? (This question is starting to be asked here by some state lawmakers).

Thanks in advance for any responses on these issues.

Brendan J. Lyons

Investigations Editor/Senior Writer

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